

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 13 May 2005 (13.05.05);
original claims 1-12 replaced by new claims 1-10; (4 pages)]

CLAIMS

1. A method of changing access points for a mobile node in a wireless access network, the method comprising:

the mobile node communicating content data on an initial channel via an initial access point of the wireless access network (s30a);

the mobile node sending a handover request on a new channel to a new access point of the wireless access network (s34);

the mobile node resuming communication of content data on the initial channel via the initial access point (s35a);

elements of the wireless access network, including the initial access point and the new access point, performing handover steps (s36, s38, s40, s42, s44, s46, s48) while the mobile node performs the resumed communication of content data on the initial channel via the initial access point (s35a); and

when the handover steps are completed, the mobile node communicating content data on the new channel via the new access point (s58a).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of the mobile node resuming communication of content data on the initial channel via the initial access point (s35a) ends by virtue of the mobile node switching from the initial channel to the new channel in response to an instruction message from the wireless access network (s50) which is sent as part of the handover steps performed by the elements of the wireless access network;

the method further comprising the wireless access network sending a completion message to the mobile node informing the mobile node that the handover steps are completed (s50); and

the step of the mobile node communicating content data on the new channel via the new access point (s58a) starts in response to the mobile node receiving the completion message.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of the mobile node switching from the initial channel to the new channel in response to a message from the wireless access network (s50) which is sent as part of the handover steps performed by the elements of the wireless access network is performed a predetermined or a calculated amount of time (34) after the mobile node receives the completion message.

4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising the step of the mobile node determining whether an expected data flow of the new access point is acceptable (s52).

5. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out the method steps of any of claims 1 to 4 performed by the mobile node.

6. A mobile node adapted to perform the method steps of any of claims 1 to 4 performed by the mobile node.

7. Apparatus for changing access points for a mobile node in a wireless access network, comprising:

means for the mobile node to communicate content data on an initial channel via an initial access point of the wireless access network;

means for the mobile node to send a handover request on a new channel to a new access point of the wireless access network;

means for the mobile node to resume communication of content data on the initial channel via the initial access point;

for the elements of the wireless access network, including the initial access point and the new access point, means adapted to perform handover steps while the mobile node performs the resumed communication of content data on the initial channel via the initial access point; and

when the handover steps are completed, means for the mobile node to communicate content data on the new channel via the new access point.

8. Apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising, for the wireless access network, means adapted to send a completion message to the mobile node informing the mobile node that the handover steps are completed; and

the means for the mobile node to communicate content data on the new channel via the new access point being arranged to start communication of the content data in response to the mobile node receiving the completion message.

9. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for the mobile node to communicate content data on the new channel via the new access point being arranged to start communication of the content data in response to the mobile node receiving the completion message is arranged such that the means

performs a predetermined or a calculated amount of time after the mobile node receives the completion message.

10. Apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 11, further comprising means for the mobile node to determine whether an expected data flow of the new access point is acceptable.